Post-Westphalian System Theory

BASIC PREMISES

All modern states oppress, to a greater or lesser extent, ethnic groups and nations within their borders, at the very least relegating them to subordinate roles.

Modern states are nothing more than pure, highly justified violent imposition, more or less disguised (through seemingly legitimate democracies where majorities oppress national minorities, etc.).

Given today's global and geopolitical context (end of the Pax Americana, challenges of governing global public goods, free riders, rogue states, etc.), this modern system of states – based on mutually agreed, contained force – has ceased to be convenient (especially for the great powers that wield the most force).

AUXILIARY PREMISES

If states impose, other powers can impose even more (especially over non-nuclear or minimally nuclear countries).

If they haven't done so yet, it's because it hasn't been convenient (risk/reward calculus).

If they were able to offer a political system more legitimate than the current ones – for example, one based on the possibility of free (non-military) political secession of communities and nations currently oppressed by states – then a redistribution of the world among great powers would be legitimate and would impose less on weaker peoples than the current international system of states.

(DEFINITION)

Political freedom is what minimizes the arbitrary imposition of one individual upon another.

This can be achieved either by granting civil, religious, or other liberties that allow people or communities to "exit" from the dictates imposed by others (whether a few or many oppressors, even

acting on mere whim);

or by letting the majority decide each necessary matter, because the majority rule minimizes the overall degree of imposition (i.e., it still imposes collective criteria, but it minimizes the sum of squared differences across issues, if decided issue by issue).

CONCLUSION

The great powers should redistribute the world among themselves in order to improve global governance, reduce political imposition, and thereby offer **the maximum possible political freedom**.

COROLLARIES

What grants legitimacy and governance potential is the maximization of freedom.

The maximal imposition involved in dismantling the current system of states requires maximal freedom to justify its legitimacy (remember that states are pure imposition through justified, disguised, and legitimized force; now a new configuration of pure force would emerge, even more sincere and even more legitimized).

This process should be unstoppable, though slow, because if a power or group of powers **CAN** do something, it's only a matter of time before they do.

The greatest cost would be moral objections, which would vanish under a new political proposal offering greater political freedom.

In the meantime, they will begin anticipating events, appropriating nearer and easier spheres of influence, ahead of any formal agreement or pact, which should be accompanied by a new political system more legitimate than the current one.

They should gradually discredit the post-Westphalian political system and advocate for stateless nations as well as the need for new global agreements.

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